

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/685,760

Examiner

Robert J. Sandy

Applicant(s)

HAMADA, YOSHIKAZU

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed 12 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3 and 6-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's ~~Comment~~ / Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S COMMENT

In view of applicant's reply filed 12 April 2005 amending claims 1, 8 and 12, and the cancellation of claim 3, the objection(s) to claims 1, 3, 8 and 12 indicated in the prior Office action mailed 11 January 2005 has been withdrawn.

In view of applicant's amendment to the specification, where "an allowance" has been replaced with "play", *to more clearly describe that there is play between to engagements*, which play is understood to mean to move or operate freely within a bounded space defined by the engagements, the objection to the specification indicated in the prior Office action has been withdrawn.

In view of applicant's amendment to page 13 of the specification where further clarification has been provided, the objection to the specification, under 37 CFR 1.71 for failing to provide an enabling disclosure, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph,, each have been withdrawn.

In view of applicant's remarks regarding the drawings, in which "Fig. 11 clearly shows the convex portion 32 of the leaf spring 4" and that "[t]he specification clearly describes the leaf spring shown in Fig. 11 as having the convex portions 32", the applicant's remarks are held to rely upon the broadest meaning of the term *convex* to at least define to a boundary that curves or bulges outward, as that portion 32 which is shown in Fig. 11. Therefore, the drawing objection indicated in the prior Office action has been withdrawn.

In view of applicant's amended to clarify the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, indicated in the prior Office action have been withdrawn.

In view of applicant's reply amending claims 1, 3, and 6-12 in accordance to the allowable subject matter indicated in the prior Office action, the claim rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 102 indicated in the prior Office action have been withdrawn. New claims 13-16 are each being dependant either directly or indirectly from the amended independent claims 1 and 3.

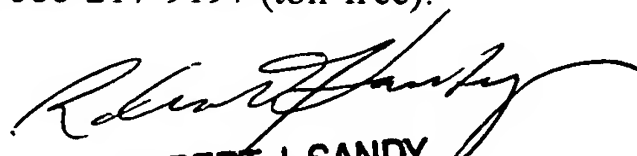
In view of the above amended claims and remarks, claims 1, 3 and 6-16 are allowed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert J. Sandy whose telephone number is 571-272-7073. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ROBERT J. SANDY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Robert J. Sandy  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3677